

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject application, in view of the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. Of these, only claims 1-10 and 14-22 are currently under consideration. Claims 11-13 stand withdrawn for being directed to non-elected species, and claims 23-42 stand withdrawn for being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e)/103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 14-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,444,758 to McNamara et al. ("McNamara"). For the following reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

McNamara does not disclose or suggest each feature of the presently elected invention. For example, McNamara does not disclose or suggest a linear block copolymer composition. In contrast to the present invention, the block copolymers of McNamara must be branched because they contain a random hyperbranched polymer or oligomer as component (B). See, e.g., col. 5, lines 10-15.

From the above, it is clear that McNamara does not disclose or suggest each feature of the presently elected claims. Accordingly, there's no *prima facie* case of obviousness, much less one of anticipation. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection(s), remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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Date